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suitable seaport for the mainland of Carpentaria, is beginning now to be realised.

The island has been settled more than two years, and its climate, for a tropical one, has proved itself to be wonderfully healthy and pleasant, even to children.

W. LANDSBOROUGH.

2.—*Note relating to the French Expedition from Cambodia to Yunan.*

By W. H. MEDHURST, Esq., H.B.M. Consul, Hankow.

(Communicated by the INDIA OFFICE.)

I YESTERDAY had an interview with the Officer Commanding the French exploring expedition from Cochin China, the arrival of which at this port I reported in my letter dated the 6th instant. His name is François Garnier, and he styles himself "Lieutenant de vaisseau, chef de la Mission scientifique du Mekong." He was originally second in command, but his superior officer unfortunately died in Yunan. He did not seem inclined to be communicative as to the objects or results of the expedition, but he furnished me with the following particulars in regard to his route:—The mission, consisting of the Captain in command, himself, another Frenchman, and a small body of Cochin Chinese and Manilla men, left Saigon two years and five days ago, and proceeded up the Meh-kong, or Cambodia River, called by the Chinese San-toang-kiang. They ascended its stream until they reached Kiang-hung outside the border of Yunan Province, when they branched to the right, and passed, via Esmok, Puweh, and Yuen-Kiang, to Lin-gan-fu. Thence they travelled through Yunan-fu, the capital of the Province, to Tung-chuan, a town close to the bend of the Kin-sha-kiang or Yang-tsze-kiang, where it forms part of the northern boundary of Yunan. There the Captain in command was left, being too ill to proceed, and they then ascended the stream of the Kin-sha as far as Ta-li-fu, intending to revisit the Lan-tsang-kiang and explore its higher waters. But the Mahommedan rebels whom they found in possession of Ta-li-fu, and the neighbouring country, prevented them from carrying out this intention, and proved so generally hostile that they were compelled to retrace their steps to Tung-chuan, which they reached after two and a half months' absence. The Captain had meanwhile died; carrying his remains with them, they again started, and followed the downward course of the Kin-sha until they reached Hankow.

Lieutenant Garnier tells me that they experienced no molestation nor opposition worth mentioning, except from the Mahommedan rebels, as above mentioned; but that on the other hand, facilities were very grudgingly afforded them by the constituted authorities in those portions of China which they traversed. He describes the privations which the party suffered from time to time whilst threading the trackless forests and uninhabited tracts of country between China and the neighbouring States, as something very terrible, and he considers it very improbable that any considerable line of traffic could ever be established through that part of the frontier which he has had the opportunity of examining. The only information I could gather from Monsieur Garnier on the subject of the navigation of the Yangtsze was, that he considered the river easily navigable for steamers as far as Ma-hu-fu in Szechuen, and that its rapids were not by any means so formidable as those on the Meh-kong River.

He reports the greater part of Yunan and Szechuen (west) as being in a very disturbed state.

June 9, 1868.

W. H. MEDHURST.